

TEMPLE SINAI BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING – December 16, 2020

Present [meeting conducted virtually by Zoom]: Michael Baratz, Lori Berman, Naomi Camper, Dora Chen, Andrew Engel, Larry Freedman, Nancy Golding, Cathy Goldwyn, Kenneth Jaffe, Deborah Lewis, Matthew Pachman, Debbie Rappaport, Deitra Reiser, Catherine Ribnick, Elizabeth Rose, Steve Sacks, Natalie Selzer, Marcie Solomon, Seth Speyer, Laura Steel, Michael Sussmann, Anita Stoll, Lisa Tucker, D. Jean Veta, Regina Ziegler, Rabbi Roos, Rabbi Diamondstein, Cantor Croen, Cantor-Educator Robins, Acting Director Ali Hurewitz, and Ellen Agler.

Call to order: With a quorum of the Board members present, the meeting was called to order by Temple Sinai President Deborah Lewis at 7:33 p.m.

D’Var Torah: Holiday celebratory comments were delivered at the Chanukah Candle Lighting service that preceded the meeting.

BOARD OPERATIONS AND GENERAL BUSINESS:

- **Board Meeting minutes** – the November 2020 Board Meeting minutes were approved with one amendment; Lori Berman was not present
- **Membership report** – the December 2020 membership report was approved.
- **Financial report** – Marcie Solomon provided a summary of the financial report for fiscal year 2020-2021. On the revenue side: a) regarding member financial commitments, for cash collected, we are at 93% of last year’s budget (7% reduction), which is better than the 12% reduction projected for the year and we collected 85% of member dues as compared to 82% in November of 2019; b) regarding the Annual Fund, we are still on track to meet or exceed the (lower) projection for this year provided members fulfill their capital campaign pledges with annual fund designations. Per the written report, on the expense side, expenses are being held at no greater than last year and in some areas additional savings have been implemented, with the exception of an additional investment in the High Holy Day Sinai5781.com site and COVID severance payments. The one-week furlough for all full-time staff in November/December will reduce expenses by an additional \$48k. For the Nursery School, the year-to-date income less expense is \$522k and it is expected that the Nursery School fund including Paycheck Protection Program (“PPP”) allocation will cover this cash deficit. The projected Religious School/Youth budget was updated on October 20, 2020 to reflect actual enrollment with a bottom line projected temple investment of \$215k.
- **Capital Campaign report** – Naomi Camper and Andrew Engel gave an update regarding the Capital Campaign, which is becoming more active. Temple Sinai is close to raising \$9.85 million and Andrew discussed future targeted fundraising and the status of current pledges, including engagement around Rabbi Roos’ 10-year anniversary at Temple Sinai.

- **Development report** – Ken Jaffe provided a brief update regarding development efforts and solicitations and reported that the Annual Fund may exceed the adjusted, conservative target goal.

UPDATES AND DISCUSSION:

- **Nursery School Budget:** Deborah Lewis and Ali Hurewitz led the discussion regarding the Nursery School Budget, which will become more integrated into the overall Temple Budget. Deborah and Ali also discussed operational plans, OSSE requirements, safety measures and cost-cutting to allow for reopening in the fall of 2021, all of which were considered in formulating the TSNS budget. The Nursery School Fund is expected to cover the costs of this year’s operation, but it will not entirely cover next year’s operations and the Nursery School (reserve) Fund will be depleted. Because there will be an anticipated deficit based on COVID-related issues, the Board was asked to approve, and did approve on motion, a request that the Temple subsidize the Nursery School’s expected deficit spend of up to \$175k for next year. The Board authorized the opening of TSNS in 2021 and approved the Nursery School budget with the expectation that there will be further and continued consultation with the Temple Finance Committee.
- **Congregational Meeting and planning:** Deborah Lewis outlined the subjects to be addressed at an upcoming Congregational Meeting scheduled to be held on January 7, 2021, and which will be primarily focused on the renovation of the Temple sanctuary and the possible revised future scope of and priorities for the building renovation and expansion plans.
- **Building Racial Stamina:** Deborah Lewis and Deitra Reiser discussed upcoming plans for classes for the Building Racial Stamina in Jewish Community Program and encouraged further participation by Temple board members. Michael Sussmann discussed his personal experience connection with this valuable and important learning framework.

REPORTS:

- **President’s Report** – as submitted.
- **Senior Rabbi’s Report** – Rabbi Roos provided an oral report, including his reflections on 2020, the eight highlights of the past year, and visions for 2021.
- **Executive Director’s Report** – Ellen Agler provided an oral report, including the reduction in hours of our security staff due to lack of work in light of the COVID-19 closure of the building. Staff received monetary support and community resources for assistance as may be needed.

Adjourn: The meeting was adjourned at 9:14 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Laura Steel, Secretary